

Opening Statement

February 14, 2006

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Chairman Dana Rohrabacher, California

I would like to begin this hearing by honoring the late Constantine Menges for his deep love of freedom and his long dedicated history of fighting dictatorships and totalitarian regimes around the globe.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of our expert witnesses here today and I especially want to thank Ms. Nancy Menges for testifying today on behalf of Constantine to share with us the key points and recommendations contained in Constantine's last book, China: The Gathering Threat, researched and written prior to his death. The book was published after his death and you might say it was his final warning...and, as was Constantine's way, his final suggestions on how to alter course and save human freedom.

Americans have heard the facts about China's ominous military buildup, its brutal repression of Christians, Buddhists and Falun Gong practitioners, its theft of some of our most power military technology, its flaunting violation of intellectual property rights, and its working relationship with the world's most deadly and dangerous rouge states such as North Korea, Iran, Sudan and Burma. Americans know about China's spread of nuclear weapons technology to Pakistan and North Korea, its threats against democratic Japan, and Taiwan and its destabilizing territorial claims against fellow democracies such as India and the Philippines. But the American people and my colleagues have heard little

about why, how and in what context all these unchallenged displays of arrogance and power are taking place.

I believe that by the end of the hearing it will be evident that the Chinese government's aim is no less than establishing China as a powerful force anywhere in the world. They call it hegemony. As with past evils, the United States is the only force able to thwart their megalomaniacal goals. They know that. We act like we don't know or don't care. We need to acknowledge the basic nature of the threat we are confronting.

China's "Middle Kingdom" role serves as the unifying, foundation and powerful motivation behind Chinese foreign and domestic policy. And yet if you are an American policy maker or academic and you refer to this extraordinary fact you will be ridiculed by main stream policy makers, academics, corporate leaders and media representatives.

It's time to cut the obfuscation and face the facts concerning the greatest long term threat the United States and to the stability of the world.